

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 20, 1999

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 858**

**Introduced by Senator Hughes**

February 25, 1999

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An act to ~~amend Section 12553 of~~ *add Section 12554 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services, and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 858, as amended, Hughes. Guide, signal, and service dog food allowance.

Existing law provides for the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program and the State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, under which, through a combination of federal and state funds, qualified low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons are provided with cash assistance.

Existing law provides that recipients of these programs who have a guide, signal, or service dog are eligible for a specified monthly dog food allowance.

This bill would also permit recipients of federal social security disability insurance benefits, *with incomes not in excess of the federal poverty level*, who have a guide, signal, or service dog to receive ~~this~~ *a dog food and other special need allowance of \$35 per month.*

*This bill would appropriate \$69,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Social Services for the implementation of this act during the 2000 calendar year.*

Vote: ~~—majority~~ <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>. Appropriation: ~~no~~ yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 12553 of the Welfare and~~

2 *SECTION 1. Section 12554 is added to the Welfare*  
3 *and Institutions Code, to read:*

4 *12554. (a) Notwithstanding Section 12552, special*  
5 *circumstances shall also include the administration and*  
6 *payment by the department pursuant to this section of a*  
7 *recurring special need allowance to every eligible*  
8 *recipient who has a guide dog, signal dog, or other service*  
9 *dog, to pay for dog food and other costs associated with*  
10 *the dog's care and maintenance.*

11 *(b) For purposes of this section, the special need*  
12 *allowance shall be thirty-five dollars (\$35) per month.*

13 *(c) The department shall mail an application for the*  
14 *allowance to each recipient of benefits under the federal*  
15 *Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program who*  
16 *is known to the department to have a guide dog, signal*  
17 *dog, or other service dog, and who is a legal resident of*  
18 *this state. The application shall include a disclosure of all*  
19 *sources of the applicant's income. The application shall be*  
20 *upon a standard form prescribed by regulations of the*  
21 *department and containing a written declaration that the*  
22 *affirmation is made under penalty of perjury subject to*  
23 *prosecution as the crime of perjury under the Penal*  
24 *Code. The recipient or, if the recipient is incapable,*  
25 *another person as described in Section 11054 may make*  
26 *the affirmation. The department shall grant the special*  
27 *need allowance upon the basis of the affirmation by*  
28 *mailing a monthly warrant in the amount indicated in*  
29 *subdivision (b) to the recipient.*

30 *(d) The county welfare department shall cooperate in*  
31 *assisting the recipient in completing his or her application*  
32 *for the special need allowance authorized by this section.*

33 *(e) For purposes of this section, "eligible recipient"*  
34 *means any person legally residing in this state who is a*  
35 *recipient of benefits under the federal Social Security*

1 *Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, provided for*  
2 *pursuant to Title II of the federal Social Security Act (42*  
3 *U.S.C. Sec. 401, et seq.) and whose income is not in excess*  
4 *of the federal poverty level.*

5 *SEC. 2. There is hereby appropriated the sum of sixty*  
6 *nine thousand dollars (\$69,000) from the General Fund*  
7 *to the State Department of Social Services for*  
8 *implementation of this act during the 2000 calendar year.*  
9 *Not more than 10 percent of the funds appropriated*  
10 *pursuant to this section shall be expended on*  
11 *administrative costs.*

12 ~~Institutions Code is amended to read:~~

13 ~~12553. (a) Notwithstanding Section 12552, special~~  
14 ~~circumstances shall also include the administration and~~  
15 ~~payment by the department pursuant to this section of a~~  
16 ~~recurring special need allowance to every eligible~~  
17 ~~recipient who has a guide dog, signal dog, or other service~~  
18 ~~dog, to pay for dog food and other costs associated with~~  
19 ~~the dog's care and maintenance.~~

20 ~~(b) Beginning January 1, 1991, the special need~~  
21 ~~allowance shall be forty dollars (\$40) per month.~~  
22 ~~Beginning July 1, 1991, this amount shall be increased to~~  
23 ~~fifty dollars (\$50) per month.~~

24 ~~(c) The department shall mail an application for the~~  
25 ~~allowance to each eligible recipient. The application shall~~  
26 ~~be upon a standard form prescribed by regulations of the~~  
27 ~~department and containing a written declaration that the~~  
28 ~~affirmation is made under penalty of perjury subject to~~  
29 ~~prosecution as the crime of perjury under the Penal~~  
30 ~~Code. The recipient or, if the recipient is incapable,~~  
31 ~~another person as described in Section 11054 may make~~  
32 ~~the affirmation. The department shall grant the special~~  
33 ~~need allowance upon the basis of the affirmation by~~  
34 ~~mailing a monthly warrant in the amount indicated in~~  
35 ~~subdivision (b) to the recipient.~~

36 ~~(d) The county welfare department shall cooperate in~~  
37 ~~assisting the recipient in completing his or her application~~  
38 ~~for the special need allowance authorized by this section.~~

~~(c) For purposes of this section, “eligible recipient” means any blind or disabled recipient of either or both of the following benefits:~~

~~(1) Federal supplemental security income benefits provided pursuant to Subchapter 16 (commencing with Section 1381) of Chapter 7 of Title 42 of the United States Code.~~

~~(2) Benefits provided under the State Supplementary Program pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 12000).~~

~~(f) For purposes of this section, “eligible recipient” also means any person who is a recipient of benefits under the federal Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, provided for pursuant to Title II of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 401, et seq.).~~